boost exports of various commodities including agri products.

(c) The major agri products exported from Andhra Pradesh are Fresh mangoes and grapes, Processed fruits and vegetables, Poultry products, Fresh eggs and egg powder, Rice and meat. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) have taken following steps for promoting exports of agri products from Andhra Pradesh:

(i) Organising integrated training programme for mangoes and grapes for the benefit of farmers in the major growing centres.

(ii) A study is being conducted to explore the potential for export of poultry products from the state and to suggest infrastructure requirement for development of export.

(iii) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has granted financial assistance for modernisation and upgradation of one of the sophisticated abattoir in private sector in the State.

(iv) Individual exporters have received Rs. 34.67 lakhs under the various developmental schemes of APEDA for promotion of product in the export market.

(v) A dedicated facility for handling perishable cargo is being set up at Hyderabad Airport.

(vi) Tobacco Board has taken several measures for export of tobacco because of which 32% growth in tobacco exports in value terms was noticed in 1997-98. Exports in 1997-98 were of the order of Rs. 972.83 crores.

(vii)Spices Board has regional offices in Hyderabad and Guntur which implement and monitor programmes in the areas of post harvest handling and quality management of spices.

Export of Agricultural Products

23. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the target fixed for the export of agricultural products specially fruits and vegetables for the current year and how much export has actually been made, so far;

(b) whether Government are aware that a large quantity of perishable goods get rotten before it reaches the market;

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken for quick transportation of such goods by air during the last two years and with what results;

(d) whether Government propose to set up air terminals for perishable goods;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The export performance for the period April-August 1998 and the initial targets fixed for the year 1998-99 are as below:—

	April-August 1998 (US$ Million)*	Initial Targets (US$ Million)
Agricultural Products	1456.77	4089
(of which) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	62.52	200

*source DGCIS Calcutta

(b) and (c) Government is aware that considerable quanity of perishable horticultural goods are damaged due to poor handling and absence of adequate post, harvest infrastructural facilities such as cold storages, etc. in order to assist in quick transportation of perishable goods for export markets, the Government is providing air freight subsidy for the export of selected fresh fruits and vegetables. The Government has also been providing financial assistance to growers/exporters for setting up of infrastructure facilities for handling perishables under its various schemes. These include:—

(i) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;

(ii) Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrasturctural facilties such as purchase of specialised transport units establishment of pre colling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handing systems (pack houses);

(iii) Estabishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the

product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled/ Modified Atmoshphere technologies in transportation for increasing the shelf-life of perishable products;

(iv) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilties at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables;

The above measures have greatly helped the growers/exporters In the export of horticultural items and increasing exports of these items.

(d) and (e) The Government has set up integrated cold storage and cargo handling facilities for perishables at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi and the Bangalore Airport. The Government has also set up walk-in-type of cold storages at the Calcutta, Chennai, Guwahati, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram Airports for handling perishable export cargo. Projects for setting up of bigger cold storage facilities at Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram and Hyderabad Airports are under implementation. These are expected to be operational by early next year.

(f) Does not arise.

Import of Poppy Seeds

24. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to import poppy seeds; if so, the details/background thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have brushed aside the reservations of Revenue Department for import, as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 13th October, 1998;

(c) if so, what objections Government have received from the Revenue Department;

(d) the detailed conditions for such import; and

(e) the names of the countries from were poppy seeds are to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (d) Government have permitted import of Poppy seeds against Special Import Licence. The importer shall have to produce a certificiate from the competent authority of the country of origin to the effect that opium poppy have been grown licitly/legally in that country as per requirements of International Narcotics Control Bureau. Import from other countries is prohibited.

(b) and (c) It is not correct to say that Department of Revenue has any reservations on this issue.

(e) Import has been permitted only from the following countries:—

(a) Australia (b) France (c) Turkey (d) Spain (e) Czech (f) Hungary (g) Poland (h) Romania (i) Slovakia and (j) Austria where opium poppy is grown legally.

IIFT Study on Industrial Development in North-East

25. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any executive summary has been prepared on the basis of a study conducted by Indian institute of Foreign Trade on Industrial Development and Export Potential of North-East Region;

(b) if so, the salient feature of the study and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether particular schemes for industrial development and export potential has been suggested for Assam; and

(d) if so, the details and status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Following are the salient features of the executive summary of the study of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade's on Industrial development and Export Potential of North-East region:—

1. For enhancement of Indo-Myanmar trade, the study recommends increase in basket of exchangeable goods, liberalisation of bilateral trade, reveiw of export first import later policy, Installation of currency chest, strengthening of infrastructure.